

Message Text

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21-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS EDITORIAL

REF: ISLAMABAD 9580

1. GOP-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES NOVEMBER 17 CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WAR ON DRUGS" (POUCHED). EDITORIAL NOTES THAT "PAKISTAN IS COUNTED AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF DRUGS AND AN IMPORTANT STAGING POST IN ITS INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC." WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT "ORGANIZED EFFORT TO CHECK DRUG MENACE SEEMS TO BE PICKING UP," AS EXEMPLIFIED BY PAK NORCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (PNCB) PLANS TO DEPLOY 25 FIELD INVESTIGATIVE UNITS AND TO DEVELOP ADDICT CLINICS, EDITORIAL CITES NEED "FOR GREATER CONTROL AT VERY SOURCE OF PRODUCTION TOO."

2. DEVELOPING THIS THEME EDITORIAL SAYS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD DIRECTLY APPEALED TO COUNTRIES LIKE TURKEY, NEPAL, AND PAKISTAN "TO STOP POPPY CULTIVATION ALTOGETHER, PROMISING ALL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT ANY DISLOCATION." IN CASE OF TURKEY, WHERE BAN HAD BEEN
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APPLIED, CULTIVATORS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN "SO HARD HIT"

THAT MAJOR PARTIES HAD PROMISED DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO LIFT BAN. "PAKISTAN HAS THEREFORE WISELY CHOSEN TO MOVE AT A MODERATE SPEED. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT THE CHANGE WOULD BE PROGRESSIVE AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD TO POPPY GROWERS." EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT 49 MT OF OP PRODUCED ON 2,000 ACRES PROVIDE SUBSISTENCE TO 200,000 PEOPLE, "WHO HAVE KNOWN NO OTHER SOURCE OF INCOME FOR TWO GENERATIONS OR MORE."

3. PIECE ENDS WITH SUGGESTION THAT "PROPER SURVEY" BE MADE OF POPPY ZONES AND THAT PHASING OUT OF POPPY PRODUCTION BE COORDINATED WITH EFFORTS TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO TRIBAL AREAS. IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT LAWS GOVERNING PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF OPIUM AND CHARAS BE MADE MUCH MORE SEVERE.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH FACTS ON PRODUCTION ARE SOMEWHAT GARBLED, EDITORIAL WAS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY PNCB CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI, WHO HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE RECENTLY IN PROJECTING HIS EFFORTS BEFORE THE MEDIA. IT IS FIRST EDITORIAL WE HAVE SEEN POINTING OUT IMPORTANCE OF ELIMINATING PRODUCTION TO OVERALL TASK OF REDUCING FLOW OF DRUGS. AT SAME TIME IT CAN BE READ AS MESSAGE TO US THAT WHILE GOP RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF ELIMINATING POPPY PRODUCTION, IT FEELS THAT CAUTION IN MOVING TOWARD COMPLETE BAN IS WARRANTED BY TURKISH EXAMPLE.
DECON 11/19/74 SOBER

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